

## INNOVATION LEADS.....

**'Innovation is not the result of chance , it's the result of action. It's not a thing to wait for. It's a thing to do.'** This quote suits for Mr.Ramesh, who runs the P.K.R farms at Pappankulam, Madathukulam. He maintains a sugarcane nursery of about 45,000 square feet. The variety of the sugarcane is CO-86032. A special cutter has been designed for this purpose which is designed by Pandiyan, Apex designing centre,Coimbatore. Both single chip and double chip cutters are available. The machine consists of motor(1 HP),powder coated MS plate, gear box, 'V' belt and stainless steel blade.This machine has the capacity to cut about 20,000 buds per day. After the bud chips being cut, they are treated with Carbendazim 2g / lit of water and monocrotophos 2 ml /litre for about half an hour. The bud chips are then dried and then implanted in the portray beds with cocopeat as growth media and maintained under greenhouse in optimum conditions .The nursery beds should be irrigated atleast twice a day. No disease has been suspected till then. For preventing stem rot, Ridomil 2-3 g /lit is sprayed initially.

Mr.Ramesh says that the procedure which is followed in **Sugarcane Research Institute, Sirugamani** inspired him to produce this technique. Initially he covered an area of about 4000 sq. feet. Later, he increased the nursery area through his experience. The area also varies according to the demand of seedlings by the farmers. He started to follow this technique from 2012 which has got a great welcome from the farmers of that area.

Major difficulties faced by him was elimination of waste bud chips from the machine cuttings. Initially when he tried this technique, about 1 lakh seedlings failed to emerge. Later he improved step by step by which germination reaching 30%.Now he succeeds with germination percentage reaching about 90%.

Apart from this, he also runs a nursery for almost all commercial vegetables such as tomato, chilli, drumstick, brinjal, ashgourd and papaya. He also has experience in maintaining marigold nursery. Among all the vegetables, ash gourd seedlings have sold for a larger extent. The variety which he cultivates is **Sunglow**. The seeds are grown in the portrays with cocopeat as media. After 30 days being maintained in green house, the seedlings are transplanted to the main field. After 35 days of transplanting, first cutting of gourd can be assured. Out of about 15 farms of that area, this farm succeeds the most because of the ideal quality of seedlings.

# TRANSPORTATION OF ASH GOURD SEEDLINGS

